Ecology and Carbon Sequestration Program Overview



DOE Consortium for Research on *Enhancing*



Carbon **S**equestration in

> **T**errestrial **E**cosystems

Introduction

Gary Jacobs Oak Ridge National Laboratory March 19, 2003

National Laboratories

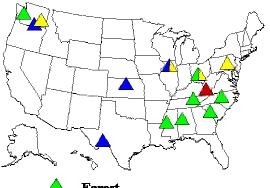
- Argonne National Laboratory
- •Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

DOE

•National Energy Technology Laboratory

Universities

- Colorado State University
- •University of California Davis
- •Cornell University
- •North Carolina State University
- Ohio State University
- •Rice University
- •Texas A&M University
- •University of Washington



Forest

Agriculture

Grassland/Shrubland

Degraded Mine

Research Institutions

- •Joanneum Inst for Energy Res, Austria
- •USDA Center for Forested Wetlands Res, SC
- •USDA Land Mgmt & Water Cons Unit, WA
- •USDA Coshocton Watershed

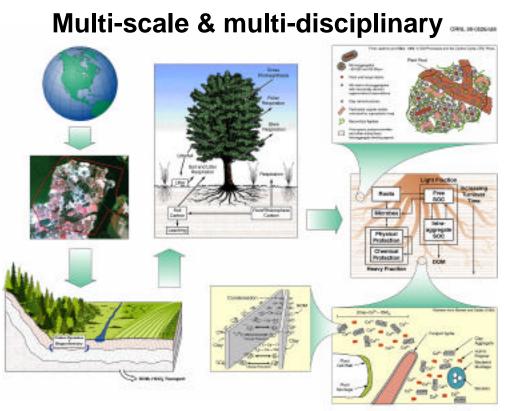


CSiTE Mission

Fundamental science supporting approaches for enhanced sequestration

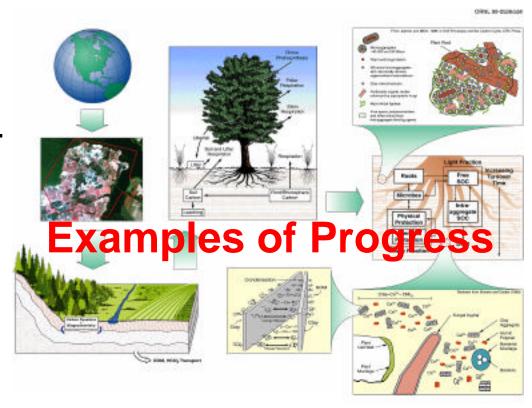
Soil carbon focus within context of whole ecosystems

- Discover how to alter carbon capture and sequestration mechanisms from molecular to landscape scales
- Develop conceptual and simulation models for extrapolation across spatial and temporal scales
- Advance science of assessing environmental and economic consequences of sequestration



What's are some possible options to enhance carbon

- Alter inputs (litter), root density, depth, chemistry
 - Manage vegetation, alter cultivars
 - > Fertilization, moisture, etc.
- Shift decomposition rates and products
 - Shift structure and function of microbial communities
 - Modify chemistry
- Optimize physicochemical conditions
 - Physical/chemical protection
 - Humification redox reactions
 - > Promote deeper transport of C

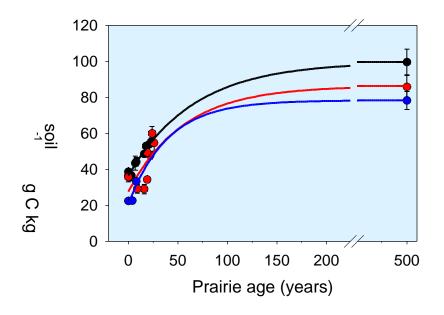


Selected Accomplishments

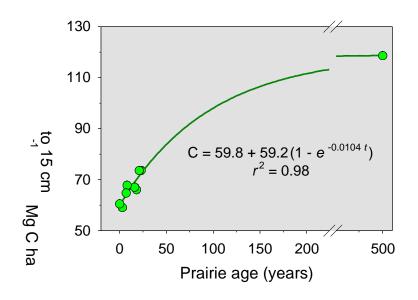
- Elucidation of controls on rates and limits of accumulation of soil organic C
- Fractionation methods leading to new insights on soil organic carbon capture and longevity
- Emerging manipulation concepts
- Microbial microarray technology for exploring soil carbon processes
- Advances in modeling tools
- Model analysis of full CO₂ and greenhouse gas accounting
- Analyzing economic implications

Elucidation of controls on rates & limits of accumulation of soil organic carbon

- **⇒** Inputs
- **→ Moisture**
- → Nitrogen
- **→** Microbial processes







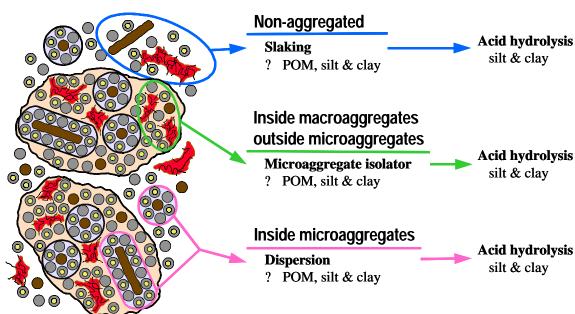
Fractionation methods leading to new insights on soil organic carbon capture and longevity

- Soil organic matter is heterogeneous
 - Various physically protected forms
 - Stages of chemical transformation

➤ Microsites with varying environmental

conditions

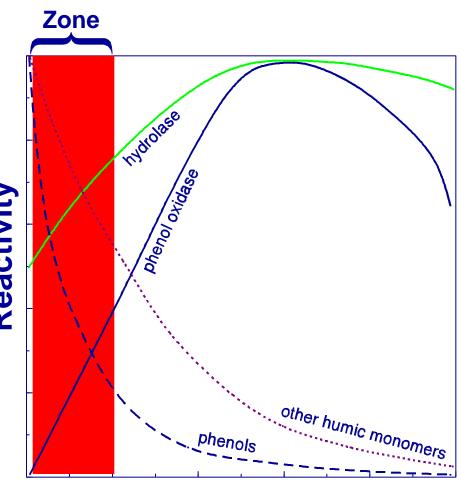
□ Understanding processes that control C capture and longevity



Emerging manipulation concepts:

Controls on humification

- **⇒** Redox conditions
 - Wetting/drying cycles
- **⇒** Fe/Mn oxide content
 - Fertilization
- Enzyme activities
 - High-phenolic cropping, green manures, fungal/bacterial ratios

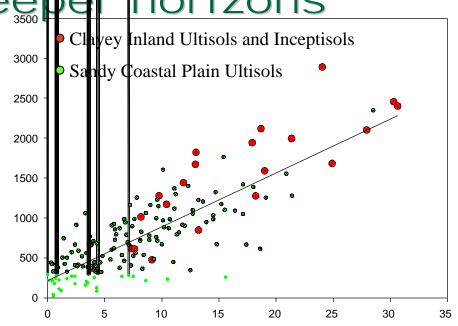


O₂ Levels

Emerging manipulation concepts:

Mobilization to deeper horizons

- Enhance hydrolysis of active organic C pools
- Conversion to passive organic C pools
- Approach
 - Regional soils
 - Lab-scale studies
 - Field-scale manipulation





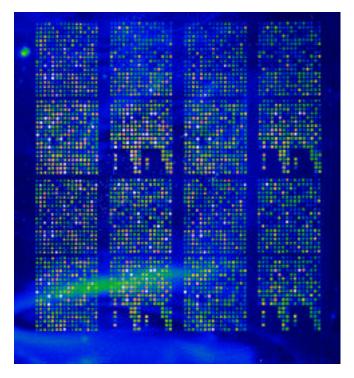
Microbial microarray technology for exploring soil

Carbon processes
Functional Gene Arrays allow insights into microbial processes, community structure, and activities

6,698 gene probes from 30 organisms

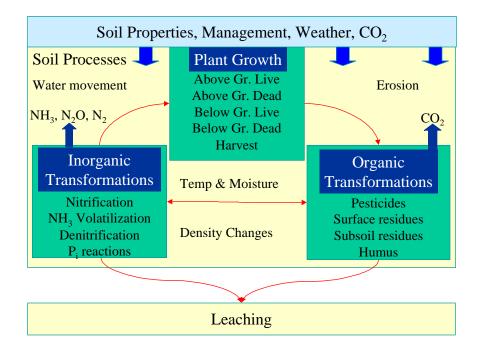
- ➤ Nitrogen cycling: 1,882
- ➤ Sulfate reduction: 1,050
- > Carbon cycling: 1,810
- Phosphorus utilization: 156
- Organic degradation: 1607
- Metal resistance and oxidation: 193

Preliminary results: Sample from reclaimed mined lands (NETL Project, Palumbo & Amonette)



Advances in Modeling Tools: Improving process models and extrapolations

EPIC Model



- □ Data are used to improve applicability of the model for spatial and temporal extrapolation
- Combined with regional databases model can extend observations over conditions not directly measured
- EPIC model also handles management and erosion

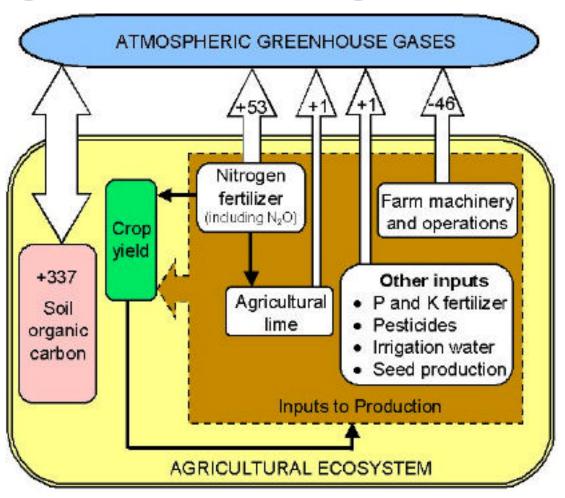
Model analysis of full CO₂ and greenhouse gas accounting

⇒ Agriculture

- > Tillage
- > Fuel
- > Fertilizer/pesticides
- > Lime, seeds
- N₂O, CH₄

⇒ Forest harvest

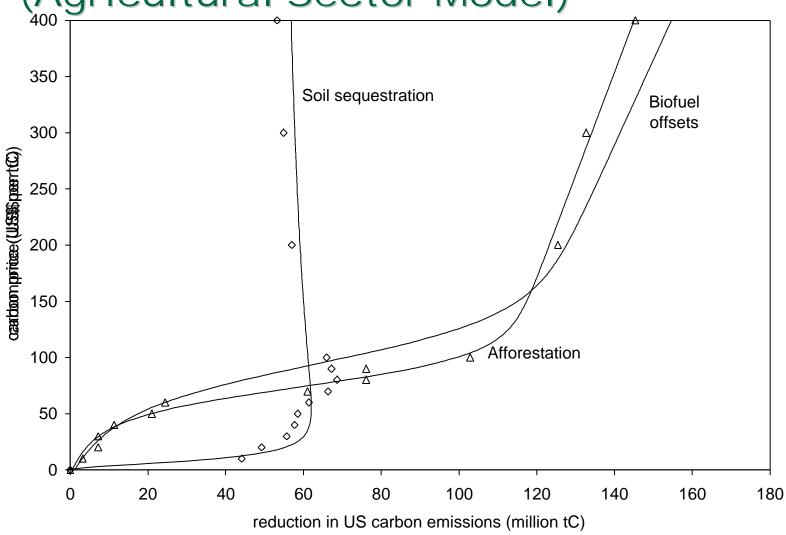
- > Forest growth, age
- > Harvest operations
- Fate of wood products



West, T.O. and G. Marland. 2002. Environ. Pollution 116:437-442.

Analyzing economic implications

(Agricultural Sector Model)



McCarl, B.A. and Schneider, U.A. (2001). *Science* **294**, 2481-2482.



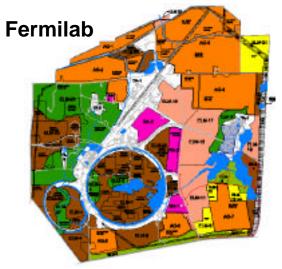
What you will hear today: Multi-scale & Multi-disciplinary studies

Discovery of options

> Understanding mechanisms to identify manipulation strategies (Fermilab)

Tools for extrapolation

- > Improve process models and landscape-scale simulations (Coshocton & Fermilab)
- **⇒** Integrative Regional Study
- Summary & Future Directions



North Appalachian **Experimental Watershed** (Coshocton, OH)







Conversion of Croplands to Grassland: Understanding carbon sequestration dynamics, potentials, and mechanisms at multiple scales

Julie Jastrow
Argonne National Laboratory

(with R. Matamala, M. Miller, V. Allison, ANL; V. Bailey, H. Bolton, F. Brockman, J. Amonette, PNNL; J. Smith, USDA-ARS; J. Six, UC Davis; C. Garten, ORNL)

March 19, 2003



DOE National Environmental Research Park at Fermilab: Research site of opportunity

Chronosequence of prairie restorations initiated in 1975

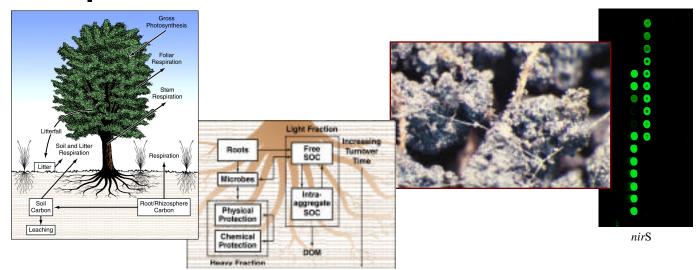
⇒ Prairie remnants

⇒ Fields converted to Eurasian pasture grasses c.1971

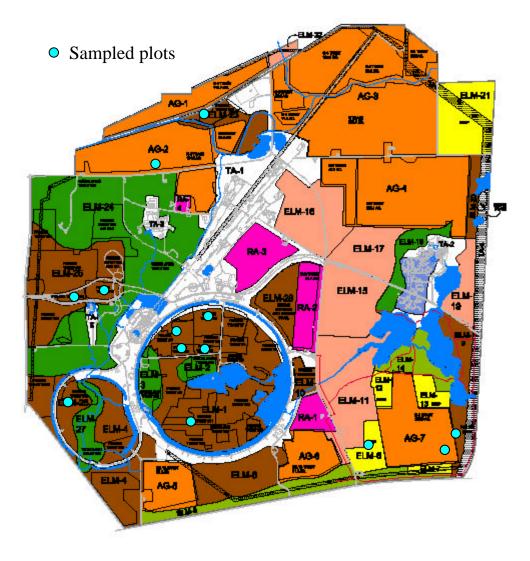


Multi-scale/multi-disciplinary studies at Fermilab

- Accrual of ecosystem C and N stocks
- → Nitrogen controls on C accumulation
- Mechanisms controlling soil C stabilization
- Microbial biomass, diversity, function and activity
- Interfacial and molecular controls on humification
- Model parameterization and validation



Fermilab chronosequence studies



⇒ Three soil types

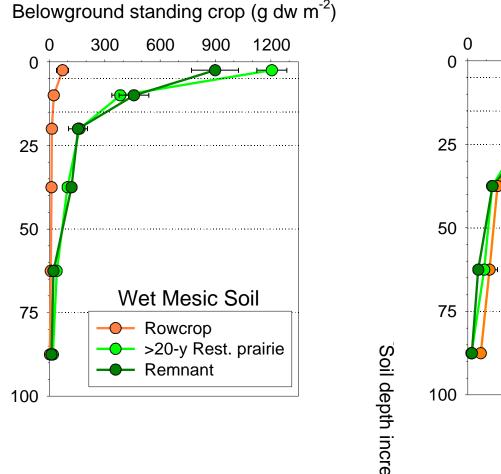
- Wet mesic,
 Drummer silty clay loam
- Mesic,
 Wauconda silt loam
- Dry mesic, Barrington silt loam

⇔ Chronosequence

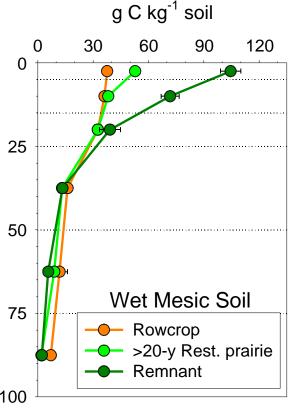
- > 2 Agricultural fields
- > 9 Prairie restorations
- > 1 Prairie remnant
- ⇒ Sample above- and belowground (1-meter depth)

Depth distribution of inputs and soil C

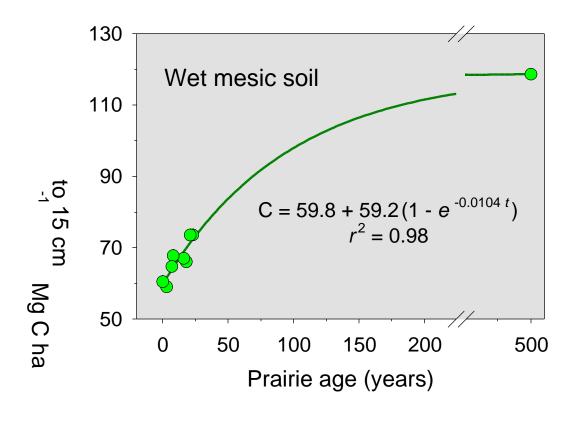
- Belowground biomass in older restored prairies equals or exceeds remnants
- Root and rhizome inputs drive changes in soil C
- Greatest soil C increases in surface 5-10 cm
- → Potential for long-term soil C accrual to 25-30 cm



Soil depth incre



Accrual of soil organic C sustained over 25 years



Based on equivalent soil mass for 0-15 cm depth at time zero

Exponential model predicts accrual of 0.54 Mg C ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ for 25 years in the surface 15 cm

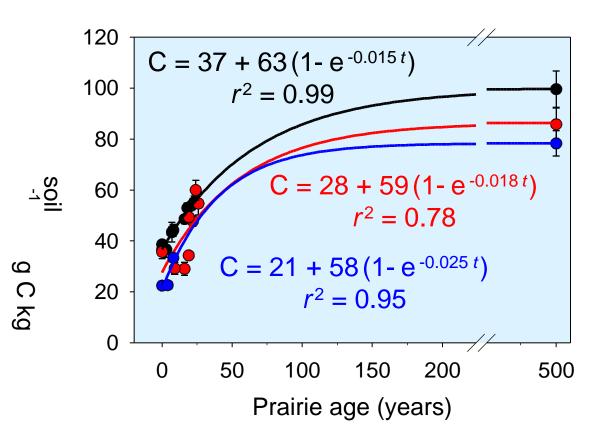
```
      Ce
      118.6 Mg ha

      MRT
      96 y

      to
      66 y
```

Effect of soil moisture/drainage conditions

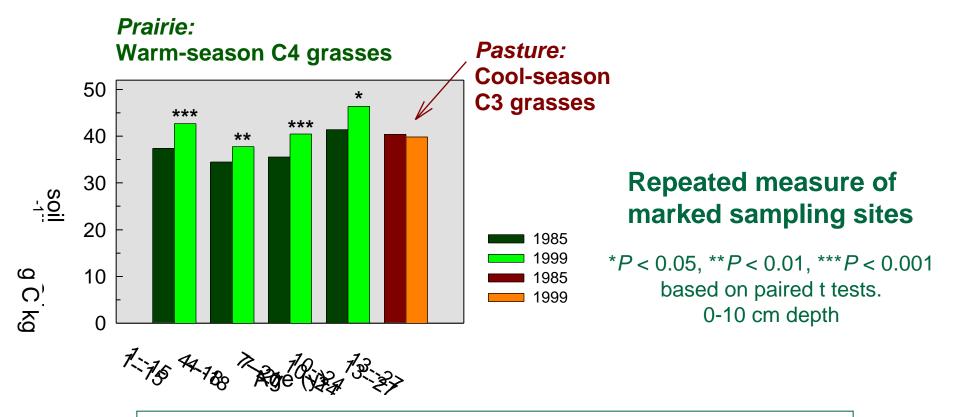
- Moisture affects equilibrium C for both disturbed and native
- □ Initial rates of C accrual are similar
- Time to equilibrium may vary



Protective capacity of these soils overcomes any differences in inputs

% of C_e accrued in 50 y		
Wet mesic	53	
Mesic	59	
Dry mesic	71	

Grassland type influences soil C accrual



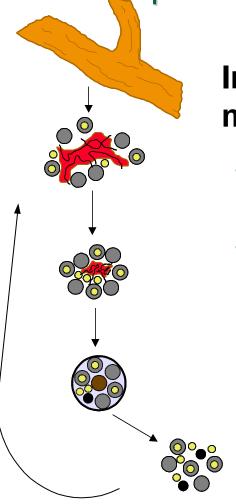
- ⇒ Prairie increments verify modeled rates
- → Pasture grasses at equilibrium by 13 years
 - ➤ Lower productivity (fertilizing might raise equilibrium)
 - > Timing and quality of inputs affect decomposition

Changes in soil N cycling under restored prairie lead to accumulation of soil N

	Estimates based on ¹⁵ N pool dilution			
Site	Mineralization	NH ₄ Consumption	Nitrification	
	μ g N g⁻¹ soil d⁻¹			
Row crop	22.2	17.5	14.7	
8-y Prairie	11.6	9.5	0.1	
22-y Prairie	4.3	9.7	0.3	

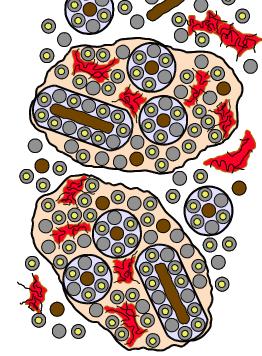
- N cycling most rapid in the agricultural soil
- → Net N mineralization decreases with time in prairie
- Increased N retention and tighter N cycling
- N accrual sustains plant productivity and thus increases C storage

Conceptual models of soil C cycling and protection mechanisms used to develop new soil fractionations



Incorporation into microaggregates:

- Physically protects organic inputs from decomposition





Microaggregates ~ 50-250 µm



Particulate organic matter colonized by saprophytic fungi

0

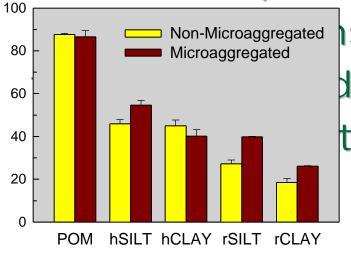
Silt-sized aggregates with microbially derived organomineral associations

- Plant and fungal debris
- Fungal or microbial metabolites
- Biochemically recalcitrant organic matter
- Clay microstructures

Mechanistic-based soil fractionations and

stable isotopic tracers provide new

needtaainneed in milinaaction

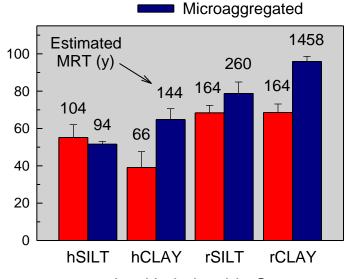


SMicroaggregates facilitate creation organomineral associations. (more new C in microaggregatecassociated silt and clay)

h = Hydrolyzable C r = Chemically resistant C

% New (C3-derived) C in fraction

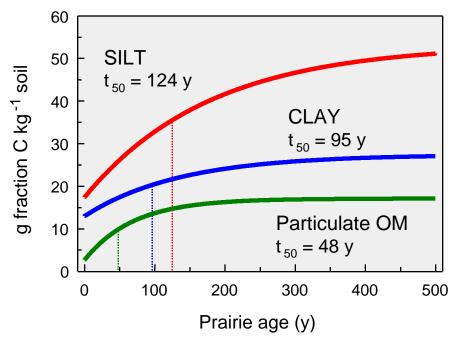
Microaggregate protection increases the longevity of



Non-Microaggregated

h = Hydrolyzable C r = Chemically resistant C

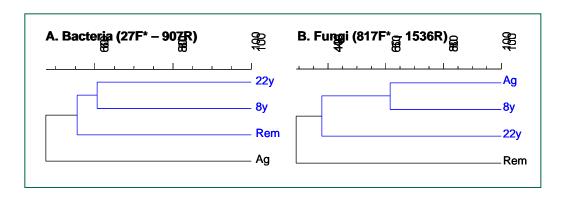
Rates of C accrual vary with particle size



- Particulate OM reaches equilibrium first
- Largest increases in silt-sized fraction

- ⇒ ~50% of silt-associated C is chemically resistant across the chronosequence
- Mineral-associated C has potential for entering longer lived pools

Plant inputs, quality, and manipulations associated with microbial changes



DNA fingerprinting shows bacterial community structures recover faster than fungal communities



PLFA analyses indicate:

- Changes in relative abundance of microbial functional groups are driven by plant inputs (amounts and quality) and related to changes in SOM and bulk density
- Fungal:bacterial ratios directly related to plant inputs
- Mycorrhizal fungi account for most of the increased fungal abundance

Increases in soil fungal:bacterial ratios and microbial diversity could increase the longevity of stored C

- Fungi use carbon more efficiently than bacteria (more C goes to biomass and less to respiration)
- Fungal cell walls are more difficult to decompose (e.g., chitin, melanin)

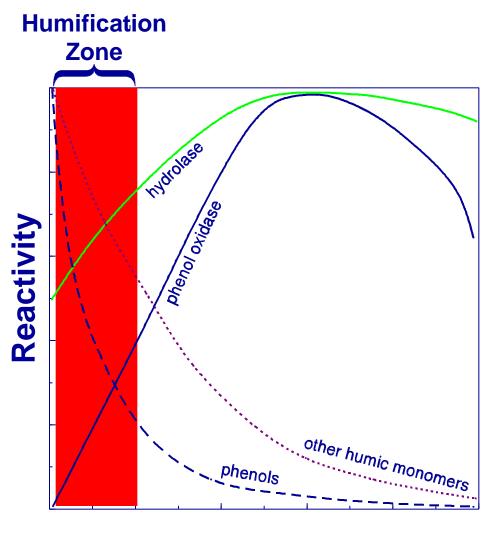


Managing plant communities or cultivars could effect micro-scale changes that may enhance sequestration

Can we optimize humification? Sequestration in prairie soils provides clues

Redox conditions

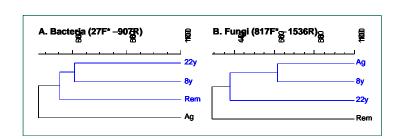
- Wetting/drying cycles
- Aggregation and roots density affect microsite conditions
- ⇒ Fe/Mn oxide content
 - > Fe/Mn nodules
- Enzyme activities
 - Roots with relatively high lignin contents
 - High fungal:bacterial ratios
 - Microaggregate pores may help stabilize enzymes

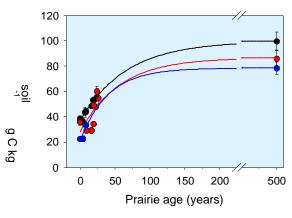


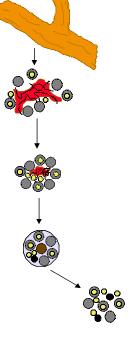


Multi-scale/Multi-disciplinary Research: Significance & Summary

- Quantifying C sequestration rates and potentials
 - Model verification and validation
 - Contribute to improved spatial and temporal extrapolations
- Providing process-based and mechanistic understanding
 - Basis for model improvements
 - Design experimental systems to test potential management strategies for enhancing C sequestration











Model Development to Extrapolate Process Scale Results to the Landscape: Examples from Coshocton and Fermilab

César Izaurralde

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
(with W. Post, ORNL; R. Lal, Y. Hao, P. Puget, Ohio St.
Univ.; L. Owens, USDA-ARS; J. Williams, Texas A&M Univ.;
J. Jastrow, R. Matamala, ANL)
March 19, 2003



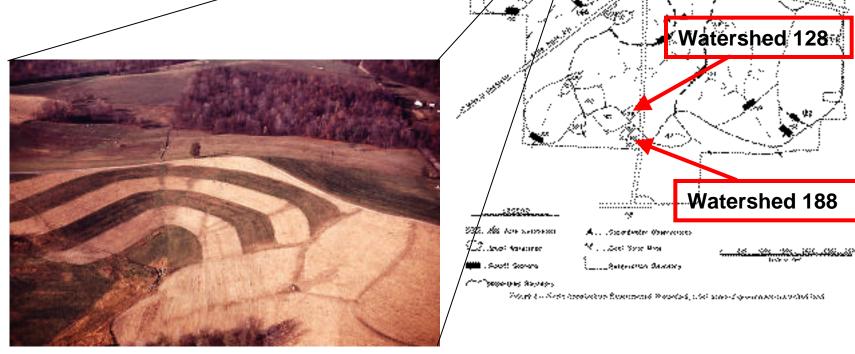
Suitability of the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed (NAEW) for Spatial and Temporal Extrapolation of soil C sequestration

- - > Corn-soybean rotations
 - > No till (NT) vs. plow till (PT) corn systems
- Management history has been kept since 1938
- → Historical measurements of soil carbon, crop production, and soil erosion losses are available
- Detailed climate and soils information are available for modeling inputs and parameters

NAEW History and Layout

□ Entire watershed divided into small bermed subcatchments with separate treatments

Current rotations established in 1976



CSiTE Work Summarized Existing Information and Initiated Process Studies

- Completed survey of management effects on soil C and N
- □ Initiated process studies to examine mechanisms associated with observed soil C differences
 - Developed new method of determining soil C loss due to erosion
 - Used particle size fractionation and isotopic analysis to examine mechanisms of soil carbon accumulation and fate
- Conducted simulation modeling studies of soil C dynamics and erosion using data from long-term studies

Management effects on C and N stocks

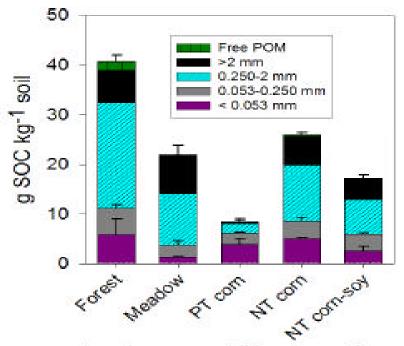
	Soil C (Mg ha ⁻¹)	Soil N (Mg ha ⁻¹)
Old growth forest	65	5.8
Meadow (Hayed field)	49	4.8
Plow till corn	41	3.5
No till corn	52	5.6
No till corn- soybean	47	5.3

Carbon and soil aggregates Puget et al.

- Carbon distributed differently among soil aggregate fractions
- □ ⇒ Larger aggregates contained more C than smaller aggregates, except in PT corn
- ⇒ ¹³C analysis revealed that corn residues represented about _ the C in PT corn while it represented >90% in NT corn

Puget et al.

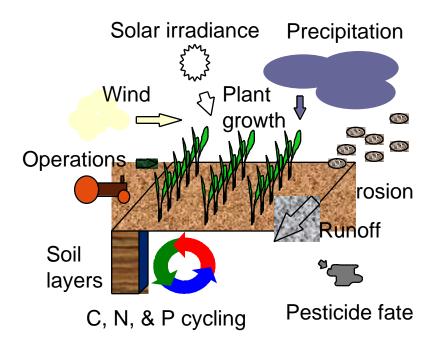
- ➢ Plow till corn soil contained 63% of C in forest soil
- No till corn had highest soil C content of all managed systems
- Soil N content in no till soils was very similar to that found in forest soils



Land uses and tillage practices

Integrating soil and biological processes at landscape scale through simulation modeling

EPIC Model



Representative EPIC modules

Williams (1995)

- EPIC is a comprehensive model to describe climate-soil-management interactions at point or small watershed scales
- ⇒ EPIC estimates the impacts of management on wind and water erosion
- □ CSiTE investigators recently updated C & N modules in EPIC (Izaurralde et al., 2001)
- CSiTE data could be used to improve applicability of the model for spatial and temporal extrapolation
- Combined with regional databases, this and other models (e.g., Century) can extend observations over conditions not directly measured

Land-use History for Conventionally Tilled (CT or PT) and No Tilled (NT) Watersheds (Puget et al.)

Watershed 128 (W128)

Corn-wheat-meadow-meadow	NT corn	Pasture	CT corn	
1939	1975	1979	1984	2002

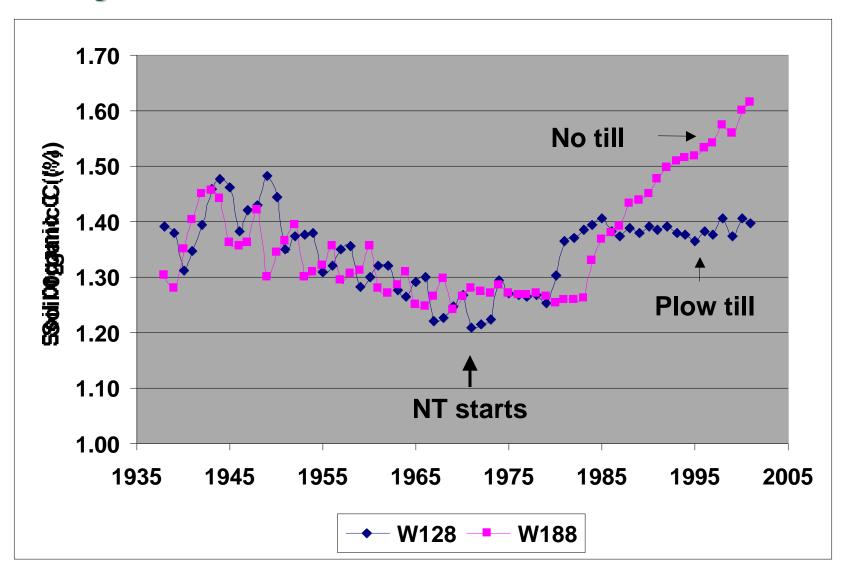
Watershed 188 (W188)

	Corn-wheat-meadow-meadow	NT corn	
1939		1970	2002

- ⇒ The EPIC model prepared to study management and erosion effects on soil C of W128 and W188
- Crop modeled included: corn, wheat, timothy, fescue, and alfalfa

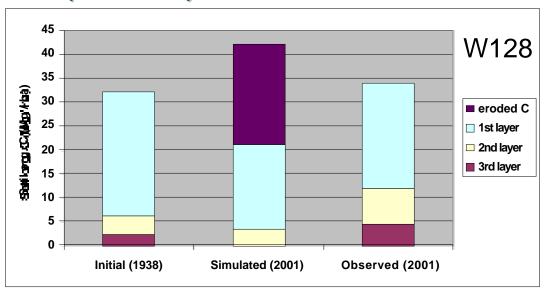
- Soil layer properties were obtained from Kelley et al. (1975) and L. Owens (pers. comm.)
- CO₂ concentration increased from 296 to 370 ppm (25% increase)

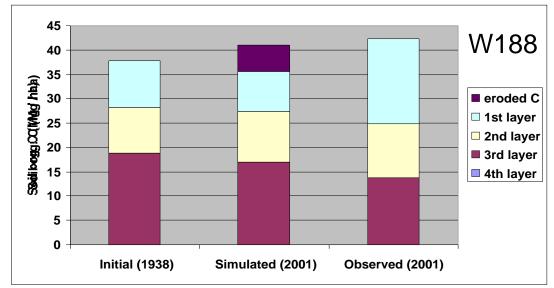
Modeling Results for NAEW 63 year simulation without erosion



Soil C stocks to 20 cm depth in Plow till (W128) and No till (W188) watersheds

- Soil erosion altered depth of soil layers
- Simulated C stocks were lower than observed values
- Eroded C in
 W188 was _ that
 of W128





Data source: Puget et al.

A comparison of annual rates of soil C erosion (Mg C ha⁻¹ y⁻¹) measured or estimated in NAEW watersheds

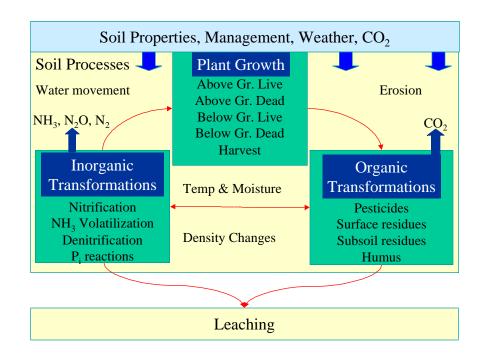


Detail of Coshocton wheel

Source	Period	¹³⁷ Cs	RUSLE	EPIC	Soil sediment collected
Hao et al. (2001)	1951 – 1998	0.041	0.149	-	0.026
This study W128	1939 – 2001	-	_	0.333	-
This study W188	1939 – 2001	-	-	0.084	-

Modeling soil C dynamics in a prairie restoration experiment at Fermilab

- The EPIC model was used to study soil C dynamics in prairie restoration experiment
- A 25-y weather record was assembled from Aurora, IL
- Crop parameters were adapted for modeling big bluestem growth
- Soil layer properties for the Drummer soil were obtained from STATSGO database and complemented with site information
- A 25-y run (1975 1999) simulated the conversion of an agricultural field to a pure stand of big bluestem
- ➢ N deposition was simulated at a rate of 2.1 mg/L (NADP)



Izaurralde et al. (2001)

Simulated and observed average above and below ground big bluestem biomass (Mg/ha)



Andropogon gerardii

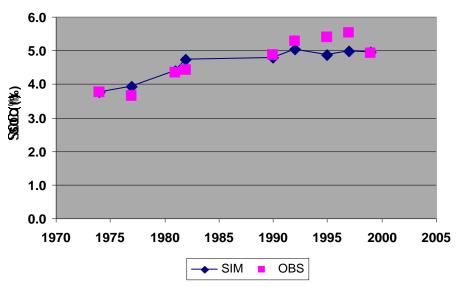
	Above ground biomass	Roots 0-5 cm	Roots 5-15 cm	Roots 15-25 cm	Root / Shoot ratio
Sim late	8.5	6.9	3.7	1.1	1.38
Obs ve	8.3	9.0	3.1	1.8	1.67

0-5 cm depth

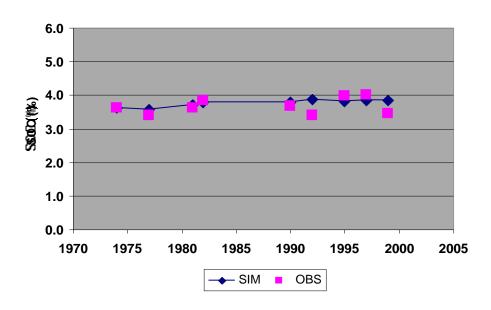
Simulated and observed soil C (%) under big bluestem

- Overall, EPIC captured the soil

 organic dynamics observed during
 25 years in the Fermilab
 chronosequence experiment
- Most of the observed increase in soil C occurred in the top 5 cm soil depth
- The simulated annual rate of soil C accrual to 15 cm depth was lower than the one observed:
 - Simulated: 0.34 Mg/ha
 - Observed: 0.54 Mg/ha
- ⇒ The under prediction of soil C by the model may be related to the under prediction of root and rhizome biomass in the top 5 cm soil depth

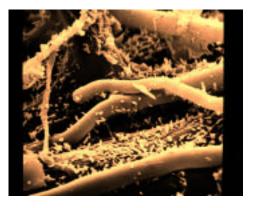


5-15 cm depth



Initial and final soil microbial biomass C (%) in Fermilab chronosequence

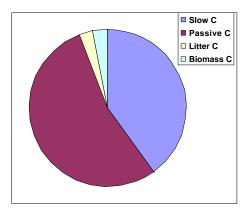
	0-5 cm	5-15 cm	15-25 cm
Initial (1974)	1.0	1.0	1.0
Final (1999) Simulated	3.2	2.7	2.6
Final (1999) Observed	3.1	2.7	2.5



<u>Credit:</u> R. Campbell. 1985. Plant Microbiology. Edward Arnold, London. p. 149.

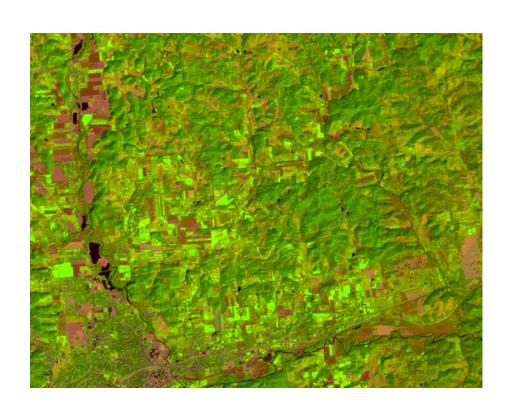
Distribution of C within soil C pools

- Passive C represented ~54% of the total
- Most of the C accrual occurred in the slow C pool



Using Model Results to Calculate Regional Soil C Sequestration

- Data from Coshocton and Fermilab and simulation modeling allow estimating
 - C sequestration potential over time
 - > C in eroded sediments
- ⇒ The model can be used to extrapolate to regional edaphic and management conditions
 - Multi-field version of EPIC
- Capability to simulate non-CO₂ gases (e.g. N₂O) will be available in near future



Land use pattern in NAEW region: Forests, meadows and cropland



Summary

Long-term experiments at Coshocton

- Have historical record needed to study temporal and spatial dimensions of soil C dynamics
- Provided opportunity to study processes that control soil C accumulation or loss under traditional and alternative management
- Improved our understanding of the role of erosion in soil **C** sequestration

CSiTE investigators

- Enhanced modeling tools to conduct comprehensive evaluations of soil C sequestration
- Conducted extensive tests of model performance using data from Coshocton, Fermilab and other experiments worldwide





Integration for Regional Carbon Sequestration Evaluation

Wilfred M. Post
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
(And CSiTE Team)
March 19, 2003



Need for an Integrated Approach

- → Agricultural, silvicultural, and land-use management for C sequestration will be adopted only if:
 - Amount, capacity, and longevity are known,
 - Net reductions in greenhouse gases occurs,
 - > Methods are environmentally beneficial, and
 - > Economic aspects are attractive.
- Science methods need development to take discoveries in C sequestration at the plot scale to perform regional scale environmental and economic analyses.

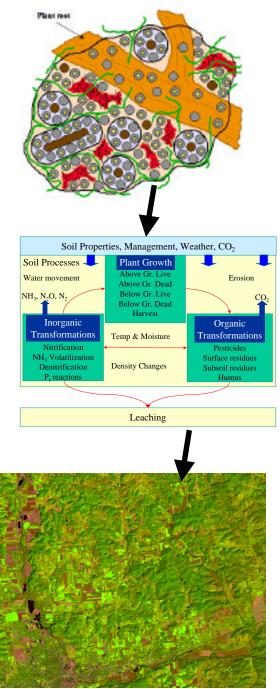
Integrated Approach to Evaluating Terrestrial C Sequestration

CSiTE is developing an approach that involves:

- Identification of promising technologies
- Understanding basic mechanisms
- Performance of sensitivity analysis
- Inclusion of full C and GHG accounting
- Evaluation of environmental effects
- Performance of economic analysis

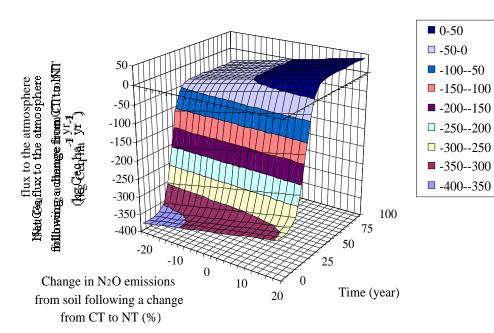
1. Identification of Promising Technologies

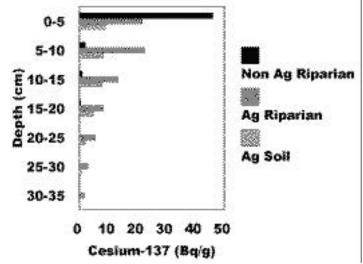
- Analysis of sequestration in existing practices.
- Identification and testing of novel manipulations.
- 2. Understand Controls and Basic Mechanisms
- Edaphic, biological, and environmental conditions.
- Physical protection, biochemical recalcitrance, chemical protection.
- 3. Perform Sensitivity Analysis for Spatial and Temporal Extrapolation
- **→** Models generalize experimental results.
- Use models and GIS data calculate sequestration.



4. Inclusion of Full C and GHG Accounting

Include net GHG emissions for all components of management.





5. Evaluation of Environmental Effects

⇒ Erosion control, water quality⇒ Biodiversity

6. Perform Economic Analyses

- **⇒** For a management practice to be adopted it must be:
 - Cost effective
 - Involve tolerable amounts of risk
 - Have a market (economic) method or a fair governmental (social) method of implementation
- Economic models require a cost per ton calculation
- Cost per ton should include:
 - Net cost of practice, amount of GHG offset
 - Producer development cost, adoption inducement cost
 - Market transaction costs, governmental costs
 - Discounts
 - Value of co-benefits

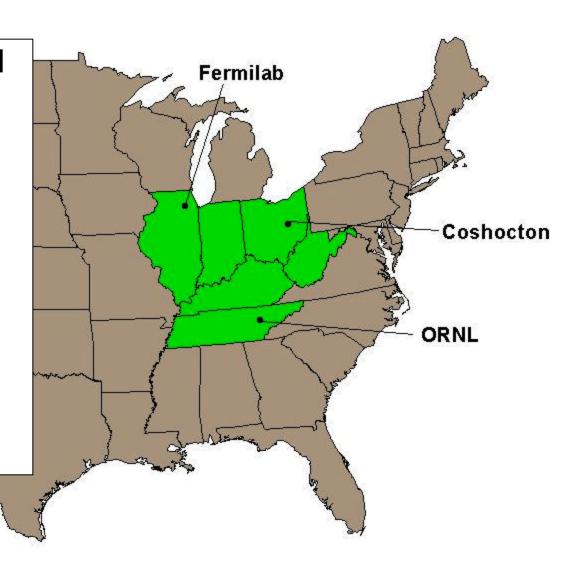
Cost per ton =
$$\frac{\text{net cost of practice}}{\text{amount of GHG offset}}$$

Private cost per ton =
$$\frac{(PDC + PAIC + MTC - GC)}{GHGO*(1-DISC)}$$

Social cost per ton =
$$\frac{(PDC + PAIC + MTC + \ddot{o} *GC - CB)}{GHGO*(1-DISC)}$$

CSiTE Integration Activity: Potential Region

- Includes forest and agriculture management, both potential components of a N.A. carbon sink,
- □ Includes current intensive CSiTE study areas, and
- Allows analyses of complex tradeoffs.





Regional Integration Activity Summary

- Integrated approach allows full evaluation of merits of a proposed C sequestration practice.
- Series of steps for evaluating C sequestration enhancement method involve:
 - Identify promising techniques
 - Understand controls and basic mechanisms
 - Perform sensitivity analysis
 - Include full C and greenhouse gas accounting
 - Evaluate environmental impacts
 - Perform economic analyses
- CSiTE is completing a concept paper and developing an approach to analyze a diverse region of the U.S.
- Integrated evaluation framework can
 - Reveal gaps in our data and knowledge base.
 - Guide evaluation of proposed new soil C sequestration methodologies.





Summary

F. Blaine Metting, Pacific NW National Laboratory and **CSiTE Team**

CSiTE Mission: Fundamental science supporting approaches for enhanced C sequestration in terrestrial ecosystems

CSiTE Goal: Establish the scientific basis for enhancing C capture and long-term terrestrial sequestration

via Discovery and characterization of critical pathways and mechanisms to create larger, longer-lasting C pools

Accomplishments to date:

- New R&D tools Experimental & modeling approaches
- Insights Biological & physical controls of C seq., economic & environmental impact potential
- Emerging manipulation concepts



Future CSiTE Directions

⇒ Continue

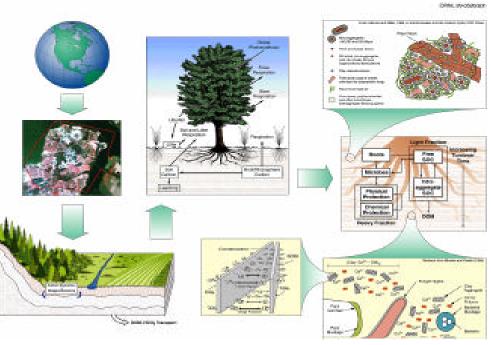
➤ Multi-scale/multi-disciplinary research

➤ Model development & landscape

extrapolations

⇒Explore

- New manipulations
- > Regional analyses



Questions?



